PCWA UPDATE
water • energy • stewardship

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

VOL 26 NO 2 APRIL-MAY 2012

IN THIS ISSUE: **WATER QUALITY REPORT**

MARTIS VALLEY WATER SYSTEM for 2011 (Reported in 2012)

PCWA Water is Safe and Healthy

Placer County Water Agency is proud to supply safe and healthy water. We are pleased to report that the drinking water supplied to you meets or exceeds state and federal public health standards for drinking water quality and safety.

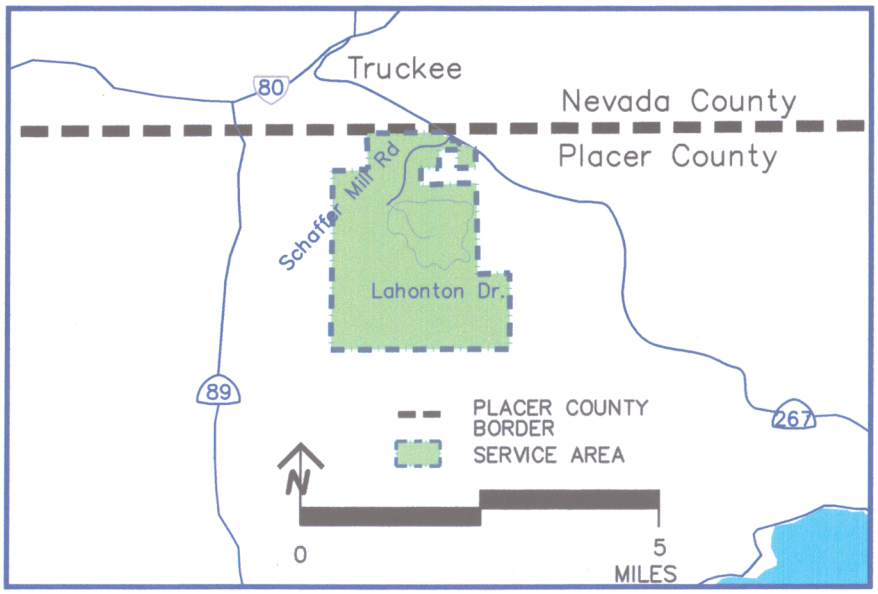
California water retailers, including PCWA, are required by law to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. The results of PCWA's testing and monitoring programs of 2011 are reported in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the PCWA Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.

About Your Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline:**

1-800-426-4791



Martis Valley Service Area

Groundwater Supply

The Source of Your Water Supply

Water for the PCWA Martis Valley service area in eastern Placer County is pumped from the Martis Valley aquifer. Groundwater is drawn from two wells, approximately 900 feet in depth, located adjacent to Lahontan Drive and Schaffer Mill Road. Water is distributed to customers via pipeline.

Ensuring The Safety of Your Drinking Water Supply

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the state Department of Public Health prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Placer County Water Agency

Consumer Confidence Report for 2011 (Reported in 2012)

MARTIS VALLEY Water System

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Constituent	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. of Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/L)	5	0.14	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Constituent	Units	State MCL or {MRDL}	PHG (MCLG) or {MRDLG}	Range and Average or (HRAA)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	mg/L	{4}	{4}	0.4-1.17 (0.89)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Arsenic	ug/L	10	0.004	0-2 1	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	None	120-130 125	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1600	None	180-190 185	Substances that form Ions when in water
Chloride	mg/L	500	None	1.3-1.8 1.55	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	mg/L	500	None	0.93-1.3 1.12	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits

STATEMENT ON LEAD *(None found in this system),* If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. PCWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

DEFINITIONS: Understanding Your Water Quality Report

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's (or MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Primary Drinking Water Standard. MCL's and MRDL's for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG: Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

AL: Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

TT: Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.

mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)

uS/cm: MicroSiemens per centimeter.

HRAA: Highest Running Annual Average

<: Less Than

ND: ND or Non-Detected: An analysis result below detectable levels.

NA: Non-Applicable

Monitoring of Unregulated Substances

Constituent	Units	State MCL (or MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (or MRDLG)	Range (Average)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	mg/L	None	None	7.9-8.7 (8.3)	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Hardness	mg/L	None	None	75-80 (77.5)	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Radon 222	pCi/L	None	None	930-1600 (1198)	Erosion of natural deposits

Radon samples were last collected in 2001. There is no current requirement to monitor for Radon in drinking water. See below.

FOR INFORMATION on water quality or questions about this report, customers are invited to contact the Placer County Water Agency Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.

Environmental Influences on Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salt and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Note to At-Risk Water Users

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

2011 Testing Results

Measurements reported here were collected in 2011 (unless otherwise noted). In accordance with federal regulations, data is from the most recent tests. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Martis Valley System

About Your Water Supply

Note on Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activites. Compared to radon entering a home through soil, radon entering through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon is 4 pCi/L or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly.

For additional information, call your State radon program (800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (800-426-4791) or the National Safe Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON).

PCWA
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570)
Auburn, California 95604

Annual Water Quality Report to PCWA Customers *(For 2011)*

Martis Valley Treated Water System

PCWA

Public Meetings

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m. at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.
The public is welcome.

Contacting Your Elected Directors

DISTRICT 1: Gray Allen
DISTRICT 2: Alex Ferreira
DISTRICT 3: Lowell Jarvis
DISTRICT 4 & 2012 Board Chair: Mike Lee
DISTRICT 5 & 2012 Vice Chair: Ben Mavy

If you would like to contact a member of the board, please call the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030. We will be pleased to put you in touch with the elected representative from your area.

This newsletter is published as a public service of the

PCWA
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570)
Auburn, California 95604

(530) 823-4850 • (800) 464-0030

General Manager: David A. Breninger
Newsletter Editor: Dave Carter

www.pcwa.net